

13. NEW BRIGHTON MALL PLAYGROUND - ADDITIONAL FUNDING REQUEST

General Manager responsible:	General Manager City Environment, DDI 941-8656
Officer responsible:	Transport and City Street Manager and Greenspace Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is request that the Board make a further funding contribution towards the New Brighton Mall integrated artwork/playground structure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The New Brighton Mall Upgrade is now nearing completion. During the design of the road it was decided that old playground equipment was not suitable and therefore new play equipment would be installed and targeted at pre-school and primary school age children.
3. A suitable location for the new play equipment is a site on the east side of the slow road between the pedestrian Mall and Beresford Street, as approved by the Board on 7 September 2005.
4. A seminar held for Board members in October 2005 included the presentation of options for the play area equipment. The option which included a unique one-off integrated artwork that would provide an alternative play experience for pre school and primary school children with some traditional, marine themed equipment was favoured by those present.
5. Council officers are now progressing the project as an artwork project which is being driven by an Advisory Group.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

6. The estimated total costs for this project are \$35,000. There is currently a budget of \$15,000 comprising of \$10,000 integrated art funds and \$5,000 of Board funding. A further \$20,000 is required.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board receive the funding application and make a \$20,000 contribution towards the play area.

BACKGROUND ON NEW BRIGHTON MALL PLAY AREA

7. The New Brighton Mall slow road is now complete and the playground needs to be replaced to allow completion of the Mall Upgrade.
8. A children's playground featured in what was previously a pedestrian mall. As part of the construction of the slow road through the mall that playground was removed. The original intention was re-install the playground equipment in another part of the mall if there was enough space. During the design of the road it was decided that old equipment was too big and therefore new play equipment would be installed and targeted at pre-school and primary school age children.
9. A suitable location for the new play equipment was investigated by Council officers in conjunction with the Artworks in Burwood/Pegasus Working Party who recommended a site on the east side of the slow road between the pedestrian mall and Beresford Street. This location was approved by the Board on 7 September 2005.
10. A seminar held for Board members in October 2005 included the presentation of options for the play area equipment. The option which included a unique one-off integrated artwork that would provide an alternative play experience for pre school and primary school children with some traditional, marine themed equipment was favoured by those present.
11. Council officers are now progressing the project and the process is explained below.

ARTWORKS PROCESS

12. An Advisory Group has been established to overview the project and provide input on designs. This group consists of Council staff and representatives from the Artworks in Burwood/Pegasus Working Party, the Board and a local preschool facility. The Council's Arts Adviser is providing guidance throughout the process.
13. A brief was issued to three artists considered appropriate for this type of artwork and initial concepts were submitted in February 2006. The Advisory Group selected the concept by artist Judith Streat, this is now progressing to the next stage of design and will be reviewed by the Advisory Group in May.
14. The sculpture will be installed in July 2006, one month later than initially anticipated.
15. A sunshade arrangement may be required for the play area but this will be assessed upon completion of the area and can be retrofitted if necessary.
16. The play area will also feature two pieces of marine themed playground equipment.

CONSULTATION

17. Community consultation will take the form of updates on the project. Public input and decisions on concepts is not appropriate because individuals have a range of opinions and tastes. The role of the Advisory Group is to represent the community and make a choice they consider appropriate.

FUNDING

18. There was no specific budget programmed for the play area as the budget for the slow road could not accommodate the equipment. Greenspace are able to fund the supply and installation of the soft area.
19. An application to the integrated art fund was successful and \$10,000 has been made available for the project. However this fund is intended to top up existing budgets and therefore cannot be the only source of funding.
20. In December 2005 the Board allocated \$5,000 funding from its Discretionary fund, \$5,000 this financial year.
21. The current estimate for the project is \$35,000. Earlier estimates did not include the additional pre-manufactured pieces that are also being installed in the play area. Also the cost of fabrication has increased during the design phase due to increased steel requirements.

OPTIONS

22. The Board may wish to consider the options and implications of providing funding for this project.

Option 1

23. The Board provide an additional \$20,000 towards the project which enables the project to be progressed and the playground which forms a component of the mall upgrade would be complete.

Option 2

24. The project is downscaled to the available budget.

PREFERRED OPTION

25. The preferred option is Option 1.